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REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5 and 7-29 of the application stand rejected. Claims 4 and 6 were previously canceled without prejudice. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of pending Claims 1-3, 5 and 7-29 in light of the remarks herein.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3, 7-9 and 17-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Electronic Arts "Madden 2001", hereafter "EA." Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit that the claimed invention is not anticipated by EA.

The Examiner once again fails to fully address Applicants assertion that EA does not disclose one or more elements of the independent claims. Specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that with respect to independent Claim 1, EA clearly does *not* disclose providing a 2D surface comprising a 2D projection of a 3D space on a display, the 3D space comprising a selected object, the 2D surface appearing to lie obliquely to the display. The Examiner reiterates his previous argument, i.e., suggesting that FIGS. 2-9 show "a 2D surface (the display screen in which the image is projected on)" and "a 3D space on the display (the screen showing a plane (field) with objects (players) displayed perpendicular to the plane)." Once again, Applicants strongly disagree that these figures in EA show the claimed element.

Specifically, the Examiner fails to explain *how* the 2D surface relates to the 3D space, as claimed in the independent claims. Claim 1, for example, includes the limitation that the 2D surface comprises a *2D projection of a 3D space* and the Examiner has made *no* showing whatsoever that there is any such relationship between the 2D and 3D surfaces in EA. The figures highlighted by the Examiner do not explain any relationship between the 2D and 3D surfaces, as claimed in Claim 1. In response to Applicants previously presented argument highlighting this lack of relationship, the Examiner speculates on the figures in EA that:

"The 3D nature of the system is further shown by the playing field showing smaller numbers (yardage markers) closer to the dashes (hash marks) of the field, higher on the screen, so as to show depth. Relating the screen shows of the reference to the applicants figure 2A, the player corresponds to the box 220, the blue circle corresponds to the disk 250 and the field corresponds to the grid plane (200)."

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Office Action, Page 13, paragraph 39.

Applicants fail to see how the Examiner arrived at this conclusion based on the figures. Barring speculation, nothing in the figures shows a 2-D projection of a 3D space. There is also no discernable relationship between the alleged 2-D and 3-D components illustrated in the figures. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has failed to show this element of the claim because EA does *not* in fact show any 2D surface comprising a 2D projection of a 3D space, as claimed.

The Examiner additionally submits that EA discloses an indicator constrained to the 2D surface to identify a center of interest in the 3D space, as claimed in the independent claims. Again, however, the Examiner fails to point to any section of EA to show that the indicator *is constrained to the 2D surface to identify a center of interest, the indicator corresponding to the selected object in the 3D space and located on the 2D surface at a position corresponding to a position of the selected object in the 3D space*, as claimed. Instead, the Examiner merely points to FIGS. 2 – 9 and speculates that there is a “blue ring confined to the field surface, which lies obliquely to the 2D display surface, used to select an item (player) in the 3D surface.” The Examiner thus concludes that FIG. 2 “teaches an indicator that has yet to select an object in the 3D space, where figure 3 shows the selection of the object in the 3D space by moving the indicator across the 2D surface its motion is limited to.”

Again, the Examiner misses the point of the claimed element. As stated in Claim 1, for example, the claimed indicator is constrained to the 2D surface to identify a center of interest and the indicator corresponds to the *selected object in the 3D space and located on the 2D surface*. Additionally, the claimed indicator is *located on the 2D surface at a position corresponding to a position of the selected object in the 3D space*. Applicants respectfully submit that nothing in the figures highlighted by the Examiner disclose these claimed features. Even assuming arguendo that the “indicator” is the “blue ring confined to the field surface”, as the Examiner suggests, there is nothing to indicate that the blue ring is “located on the 2D surface at a position corresponding to a position of the user-selected object in the 3D space”, as claimed. As discussed above, although the Examiner suggests that EA shows a 2D surface and a 3D surface, the Examiner does not give any indication of how the 2D surface relates to the 3D space. In fact, there is no

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indication from the figures and/or manual pages that there is any projection of a 3D space on a 2D surface. Additionally, although the Examiner suggests that EA teaches "in EAfig2 and manual Page 14, a projection of a 3D space that has a 3D plane, where a user selectable object casts a shadow on a point, in the plane where the object can be selected through use of the circular indicator", it is not apparent in the figure that EA contemplates an indicator located on the 2D surface at a position corresponding to the position of a user-selected object in the 3D space, as claimed. The Examiner provides no additional explanation and as such, Applicants respectfully submit that EA does not teach the elements of the independent claims.

Independent Claim 22 includes the same or similar limitations as independent Claims 1 and 17. More specifically, Claim 22 includes the limitation of a display unit that displays a projection of a 3D space on a 2D surface, the 2D surface appearing to lie oblique to the display unit. Claim 22 also includes the limitation of a user interface configured to receive user controls for moving an indicator on the 2D surface, the indicator on the 2D surface representing a selected one of the objects located in the 3D space and located at a position on the 2D surface corresponding to a location in the 3D space. Again, the Examiner suggests that EA discloses these elements (as previously discussed above), but in fact, Applicant respectfully submits that EA does not disclose displaying a projection of a 3D space on a 2D surface and/or an indicator located on the 2D surface at a position corresponding to the position of a user selected object in the 3D space. EA therefore also does not anticipate independent Claim 22.

Claims 3, 4, and 6-9 are dependant on Claim 1, Claims 18-21 are dependant on Claim 17 and Claims 23-24 are dependant on Claim 22. Claims 4 and 6 have been canceled herein without prejudice and the rejection to those claims is therefore moot. With respect to Claims 3, 7-9, 18-21 and 23-24, since these dependant claims include all the elements of the independent claims, EA also does not anticipate Claims 3, 7-9, 18-21 and 23-24 for the same reasons. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection to Claims 1, 3, 7-9, 17-25 under 35 U.S.C. §102.

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35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2, 5, 10-16 and 25-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over EA and Robertson, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,414,677 ("Robertson"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of EA with Robertson does not teach or suggest the claimed invention. With respect to Claim 10, the claim includes the limitation of rendering a first view of a 3D space from a first reference point, the 3D space comprising a user-selected object, the first view including a *projection of the 3D space on a 2D surface and the 2D surface including an indicator located at a position corresponding to a position of the user-selected object in the 3D space*. Despite the Examiner's contention otherwise, as previously discussed above, EA does not teach or suggest this claimed limitation. Robertson also does not teach or suggest this limitation and the Examiner does not suggest otherwise. The combination of EA and Robertson therefore does not teach or suggest the claimed elements and as a result, these references do not render Claim 10 unpatentable.

Claim 25 includes a similar limitation to Claim 10, i.e. a first projection of a 3D space from a first viewpoint, the 3D space comprising a user-selected object, the first projection including a *projection of the 3D space on a 2D surface and the 2D surface including an indicator located at a position corresponding to a position of the user-selected object in the 3D space*. As previously discussed, EA, alone and/or in combination with Robertson does not teach this claimed element and thus does not render Claim 25 unpatentable.

Claims 2 and 5 are dependant on Claim 1, Claims 11-16 are dependant on Claim 10 and Claims 26-29 are dependant on Claim 25. Claim 1 is discussed above under the heading "35 U.S.C. §102", while Claims 10 and 25 are discussed in the paragraphs directly above. As discussed above, EA, alone and/or in combination with Robertson does not render independent Claims 10 and 25 unpatentable. Thus, with respect to Claims 2, 5, 11-16 and 26-29, since these dependant claims include all the elements of the independent claims, EA and Robertson also do not render the claims unpatentable for the same reasons. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection to Claims 2, 5, 10-16 and 25-29 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

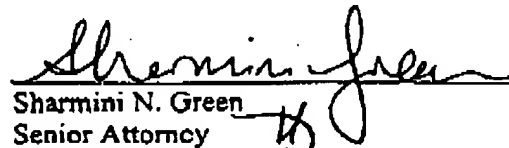
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CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the applicable objections and rejections have been overcome and that pending Claims 1-3, 5 and 7-29 are in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance in this case. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (714) 669-1261.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 18, 2005
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